



WHAT IS VIDEOCONFERENCING?

Videoconferencing is an exciting new way to hold meetings and share information and ideas without having to travel. It is a two-way interaction between two or more sites located in distant locations. Through the use of this technology, remote sites can see, hear, and participate in meetings, training sessions, and a variety of other applications without the inconveniences associated with travel. With additional equipment, videoconferencing can provide real time sharing of documents, drawings, slides, transparencies, computer images and more.

In January 1998 and 1999 the MAG Regional Council identified videoconferencing as one of their highest priorities and approved funding for a Regional Videoconferencing System. In February 2001, MAG awarded a contract to Norstan Communications Inc., to complete the implementation of the System. Today the System is officially complete.

The goal of the RVS is to link MAG and its 28 member agencies with video and audio conferencing. To do this MAG provided each member agency with an "essential" videoconferencing system. Each site received a 32-inch TV monitor, one computer, two microphones, and one camera, all on a roll-about stand. In addition, network was supplied to connect all of the sites.

To date, videoconferencing equipment and network have been installed at 31 sites in the region including all cities and towns, the Gila River Indian community, Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian community, one site at Maricopa County and 3 sites at MAG. In addition over 50 site coordinators have received training on the use of the system.

MAG Regional Videoconferencing System sites throughout the region provide you the opportunity to videoconference with rooms full of people, each in a different location. You can videoconference with sites across the region, across the state, across the country or around the world.